



VOL XX.

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Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

DO ROOTS OF TREES GROW IN WINTER?

It has been a question with many observing men, whether the roots of trees are wholly dormant in the winter, or whether they actually grow during the winter season, when sufficiently deep to be out of the reach of the frost. A writer in one of the agricultural journals relates some experiments which seem to corroborate his idea that there is some growth of those roots which are so deep that the ground is not hardened around them during the winter season. The whole physiology of the roots of trees is not yet understood. The investigation of it is difficult, on account of the necessity of always keeping the root buried out of the reach of light, in order that it may carry on its peculiar functions. If you take it up and examine it, you at once take it out of its natural element; and its action, if any it has in such case, is an unnatural one. There can be no doubt that the roots of trees have a two fold duty to perform. In the spring and summer, they have to take in and transmit to the branches such fluid solutions of the material as are necessary for the growth of the tree and the production of flower and fruit.

In the winter they become a reservoir for the descending sap, or, if not of the descending sap, for the accumulation of fluid, which they retain in store till spring.

This will be made abundantly evident to you by a little experiment. Cut into a maple trunk or limb, in the spring, and the sap will exude freely. The tree will bleed, as we say. Cut into that same maple in the autumn, and the trunk or limb as cut will not bleed; but, if you cut off one of its roots, the sap or fluid will ooze out quite freely, thereby incontestably showing that there is an accumulation of it in the roots, and not in the branches. Whether it has certainly any action on the growth or increase of the roots during the winter, remains to be discovered.

HOW TO POP CORN.

This is an art of improvement, and almost every department of life, be it large or small, seems bound to have its share. Popping corn is a business well known to boys, as being formerly done in the ashes, during the late evenings of winter, or the leisure hours of day. Then came the corn popper, being a wire cage with a handle, in which the corn was confined, while it was shaken carefully over a dull fire, and the corn expanded, and burst open, and turned inside out, and was still retained in its prison.

The last Rural New Yorker, in a communication over the signature of H. A. B., gives the following mode, as another improvement in the important business of corn popping: "Take two quarts of salt, and put it into an iron kettle, and heat it until it is hot enough (the degree of heat may be found by trial) to pop the corn; put it in and stir the corn until it begins to pop, then cover the kettle, to prevent the corn and salt from flying out; raise the cover occasionally, and stir the corn to keep it from burning.

When you have a little experience, he says, you may pop corn better and faster in this way than any other. The corn will all be turned inside out, white and soft, provided the corn is well dried, as it should be when you undertake to pop it. The corn may be easily separated from the salt, by sifting through a screen, or common fanning mill sieve, and the same salt will answer to pop all winter.

This appears to be a very good mode of popping on a common cook stove, provided Mr. H. A. B. is correct in his corn popping philosophy.

FLAX COTTON.

The flax cotton business is strongly working its way into favor. It will take a good deal of time, labor and capital, to introduce it fully, but it will finally be done. There is a strong company getting under way to operate in it here in the United States, and there are several companies now in operation in England. A writer, who has seen the process at the Stepney Model Factory, in England, states that the flax refuse to be converted into a fine, white substance, admirably adapted to paper making, and at a less price than pays for linen yarn. He adds that the value of this preparation as an article for paper making may be estimated, when it is known that one manufacturer of linen in the north of Ireland throws away "refuse tow" of the yearly value of five thousand pounds sterling, all of which at present is useless. The same person says he examined specimens of flannel, felt and woollen cloth, manufactured of equal parts of British cotton and wool; also felt that was composed entirely of the former material (flax cotton) worked up with silk. "Cottonized" flax may be combined with great ease, on the existing silk machinery, and when so wrought, is capable of receiving the same colors in dyeing, adding to the strength of the fabric manufactured.

USE GRAIN DRILLS WHERE YOU CAN.
From what we can learn from others, and from what observations we have made ourselves, whenever opportunity presented, we are satisfied that drilling in all kinds of grain, and especially where it can be done by one of the modern grain drills, is by far the best mode of doing it.

It is evident that a great saving must be made in the amount of seed sown, and all the testimony that we can gather corroborates the belief that the crop is not only much healthier, but, as a natural consequence, will yield a greater amount of grain than if sown broadcast. One of these drills will cost from eighty dollars to one hundred, and where a farmer does not feel able to purchase one, several in one neighborhood might club together and purchase one in common. The saving in seed, and the increase of crop would soon pay for it.

The last number of the Cultivator (Albany).

has the following statement, which is well worthy the consideration of our farmers: "Edward Stahler, in his admirable essay on the advantages of drill seeding, states that after examining its results on some eight hundred or a thousand acres, besides large experience on his own land, he finds there is not a single instance where it has not proved the most profitable, first, in the saving of seed, and secondly in the increased product of the grain, amounting from one to six or seven bushels to the acre. He thinks few pecks of seed drilled are equal to two bushels broadcast. He has known the increase, in one case, by careful comparison of the two modes, to amount to nine bushels per acre, in favor of drilling. He relates an interesting incident: A vendor of drills offered a drill for the increase in a crop of fifty acres of wheat, to be determined by sowing a few strips broadcast, for comparison. But before harvest, the farmer preferred paying the hundred dollars, the price of the drill, with interest. On carefully ascertaining the increase, he found it to be one hundred and fifty-three bushels."

For the Maine Farmer.

COLORED THREAD—QUERY.

MR. EDITOR:—As your paper is ever ready to suggest conveniences for the husbandman, I presume the housewife will be heard with the same promptitude. The housewives and seamstresses would enquire, through your paper, why we cannot find the useful article of colored spool-cotton thread of the same fineness, or variety of numbers, as the white? We cannot find it sufficiently fine for a hem on a calico garment, and must therefore resort to silk from necessity, not economy. We cannot meet a bevy of seamstresses but we hear the complaint, "Why can't we get fine colored spool-cotton?" Whether the fault is in the manufacturer or the trader, I hope they will be reminded of this pressing necessity, and endeavor to furnish this useful class of your readers with a supply.

NOTE. A chap at our elbow says he opines the reason is this, viz:—there is not call enough for the article to induce much manufacture of it in the form of spools, and therefore it comes in skeins.

ED.

NORTH KENNEBEC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In publishing the reports of the North Kennebec Society, last week, we omitted one. We give it this week, believing in the old adage, "better late than never."

Heifers.

The Committee on heifers having attended to their duty report their conclusions.

There were but four three year olds entered for premiums; six two year olds; three year olds and three calves; the most of them very fine ones, more especially when we consider the disadvantages of the past summer. We presume could these animals possess the power of speech they would say "judge us not by our sorry looks, feed us better and we will reward you for it."

The first premium on three year olds was awarded to Homer Percival; the second to Harrison Jewett; the third to Joseph Percival.

The first on two year olds to R. H. Green; the second to Reuben Tozier; the third to Joseph Percival.

The first on one year olds to Jonathan Hayward; the second to Reuben Tozier.

The first on calves to Charles Dow; the second to Joseph Percival.

WARREN PERCIVAL, for Committee.

TO HEAD CABBAGES IN WINTER.

"Head him or die," was the vow of a politician; we forget which he did; but for us farmers the cabbages might as well die as forget to head. A plan that never fails to cause a cabbage, that has the least cut in the inner leaves, to head during the winter, and a very good way to keep heads of cabbages through the cold winter, is the following which we ourselves have tried with success.

Select a suitable spot in a garden or field, six feet in width of any desired length, free from standing water; run a furrow the proposed length of your bed and throw a back furrow upon it. This double furrow will form a side wall of your cabbage house. In the trench stand your cabbages on their roots leaning towards the furrow at an angle of 40 to 45 degrees. Let the next furrow be thrown upon the roots and stalks of the cabbages, and another row be placed in the trench made by the second furrow; thus proceed until your six feet of width is planted, then let the last furrow be a double one,—making the other side wall about the height of the cabbage-head. Through the whole length of the middle of the patch lay the longwise, supported by crutches, at a height of about two feet from the cabbages, this will form the ridge of the cabbage-house. Lay light brush-wood from the side-walls to the ridge-pole, then throw on salt hay, or bog hay, or straw, two inches in depth. As the colder weather advances throw on dirt until you have a depth of six or eight inches—or even more, when the winters are severe, and finally spank the dirt roof with the flat of a spade, until it will shed the rain.

Fill up the two ends of your house in the same manner, leaving only small air-holes of a foot or two diameter, which may be closed with hay; and opened occasionally on a fair day. The length of the house should be on a north and south line.

In the early spring you will find your most promising plants have heads of their own; and you'll try it ever afterwards.

[Journal of Agriculture.]

THE CATTLE TRADE OF THE WEST.

The yards are not overlooked at present with number one beavers—there appears to be barely a sufficiency for butchers to select from, for the daily use of the stalls for city consumption. As many droves are in expectation soon from the interior, a brisk fall business is looked for, and a decline in price is much desired. Speculators are sending off small lots for the New Orleans market—present rates from \$3.25 to \$4.50 per hundred. The shipment of cattle from the port of St. Louis is much greater than is generally known. It is presumed that more than twelve thousand head of cattle have been shipped to New Orleans the year past—one of our oldest butchers, dealer in live stock, has on his own account sent to New Orleans within the past year three thousand head, and to the city of New York fourteen hundred head. [St. Louis Int., 18th.]

WEST OXFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Cattle Show and Fair of this Society, in connection with their annual meeting, was held at Fryeburg, on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 21 and 22, 1852. A very interesting and instructive address was delivered before the members of the Society, by Ezekiel Holmes, M. D., Editor of the Maine Farmer. Measures were taken to secure the admission of several adjacent towns in New Hampshire, to the privileges of the Society. The following is a list of the officers chosen for 1853:

President—Edward L. Osgood, Fryeburg.
Vice President—Isaac Spring, Brownfield.
Corresponding Secretary—Ruel Barrows, Fryeburg.
Recording Secretary—Thomas Souther, Fryeburg.

Treasurer—Samuel Stickney, Brownfield.
Trustees—James Hobbs, Jr., Isaac Warren, Fryeburg; Elden Barker, Lovell; E. T. Nutt, Stow; Gilbert Smith, Denmark; Ichabod Warren, Brownfield; William Woodbury, Sweden; John P. Hubbard, Hiram; L. P. Cummings, Porter.
Member of the Board of Agriculture—Isaac Spring, Brownfield.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On Crops.

William H. Walker, Lovell, best wheat, 46½ bushels on 1 acre and 70 rods, \$3.00; Samuel Stickney, Brownfield, one bushel best seed wheat, \$1.00.

William H. Walker, Lovell, best corn, 110 bushels on 1 acre and 5 rods, \$3.00; William Gordon, Fryeburg, 2d best do., \$2.00; L. P. Sawyer, Denmark, 3d best do., \$1.00; Jonathan Sanborn, Fryeburg, best seed corn, 50cts.
James Walker, Jr., Fryeburg, best rye, \$2.00.
L. P. Sawyer, Denmark, best peas, \$2.00.
Samuel Souther, Fryeburg, best peas, \$2.00.
John McMillan, Fryeburg, best potatoes, \$2.00.
PELEG WADSWORTH, } Committee.
THOS. PARINGTON, }
C. K. FARINGTON, }

On Town Teams.

Town of Fryeburg, best town team, \$10.00.

MOSES HOWARD, Chairman.

On Beef Cattle and Working Oxen.

James E. Hutchins, Lovell, best beef cattle, 5 years old, girl 7 feet, 10 inches, \$2.00.
C. K. Farington, Fryeburg, working oxen, \$1.00; E. G. Kimball, Lovell, do., \$1.00.

On Sheep and Swine.

Robert Bradley, } Committee.
JOHN L. CLARKSON, }
ANDREW WOODBURY, }

On Horses.

James E. Hutchins, Lovell, best breeding mare, \$3.00; R. I. Chandler, Fryeburg, 2d do., \$2.00.
B. B. Howe, Fryeburg, best three years old gelding, \$2.00; Charles Pray, Lovell, 2d do., \$1.00.
Charles E. Weston, Fryeburg, best two years old gelding, \$1.00; Robert Gibson, Fryeburg, 2d do., 50cts.

On Sheep and Swine.

William Haggard, Fryeburg, best flock of sheep, \$3.00; J. G. Swan, Denmark, 2d do., \$2.00.
J. G. Swan, Denmark, best buck, \$1.00; W. Haggard, Fryeburg, 2d do., 50cts.
Samuel Stickney, Brownfield, best boar and sow, \$4.00.
C. K. Farington, Fryeburg, best litter of pigs, \$2.00.

On Sheep and Swine.

JAMES WALKER, JR., } Committee.
J. G. STUART, }
SOUTHWELL FARINGTON, }

On Sheep and Swine.

Miss Martha Wentworth, Brownfield, 3lb. sewing silk, \$1.00.
Mrs. Anna Walker, Fryeburg, 3½lb. raw silk, \$1.00.

On Sheep and Swine.

The above silk is also entitled to a bounty from the town, according to an act of the Legislature.

On Sheep and Swine.

H. C. BUSWELL, Chairman.

On Sheep and Swine.

Moses Howard, Brownfield, best June butter, \$2.00; C. K. Farington, Fryeburg, 2d do., \$1.00.

On Sheep and Swine.

Moses Howard, Brownfield, best fall butter, \$1.00; A. W. Charles, Fryeburg, 2d do., 50cts.

On Sheep and Swine.

—, best cheese, \$2.00; Samuel Stickney, Brownfield, 2d do., \$1.00.

On Sheep and Swine.

On Tools and Agricultural Implements.

Asa Osgood, Fryeburg, best ox-yoke, with bows and ring, \$1.00.

Phineas W. Swan, Fryeburg, set of planes, and other tools, \$1.00.

Noyes Abbott, Fryeburg, horse shoes, \$1.00.
JOHN L. EASTMAN, Chairman.

On Sheep and Swine.

James Brazier, Hiram, best winter apples, \$1.00; Asa O. Pike, Fryeburg, 2d do., 50cts.

Asa O. Pike, Fryeburg, best fall apples, \$1.00; Samuel E. Merrill, Brownfield, 2d do., 50cts.

Ichabod Warren, Brownfield, best apple and pear trees, \$1.00.

Several fine varieties of apples were also exhibited by Thomas Mabry, of Hiram, and John Lang of Conway, N. H.

C. HUBB, Chairman.

On Leather, &c.

H. M. Boswell, Fryeburg, best side upper leather, \$1.00; best harness leather, 50cts; best calf skin, 50cts.

John Evans, Fryeburg, best single harness, \$1.00.
JOHN RICKER, Chairman.

On Cabinet Work.

A. H. Perkins, Fryeburg, mahogany card table, 75cts; work box, 25cts.

EDWARD SHIRLEY, } Committee.
E. T. COTTON, }

On Carriages.

William Folsom, Fryeburg, best single horse wagon, \$2.00.

Elisha T. Cotton, Brownfield, best sleigh, \$1.00.

On Boots and Shoes.

John Ricker, Brownfield, best pair thick boots, \$1.00; H. G. O. Morton, Fryeburg, 2d do., 50cts.

H. D. E. HUTCHINS, } Committee.
SEWALL FLY, }

On Fowls.

Jeremy Eastman, Stow, best pair fowls, Cochinchina, 75cts.

J. G. Swan, Denmark, 2d do., Chittagong, 50cts.

P. W. Swan, Fryeburg, best brood of chickens, 50cts.

STEPHEN ANDREWS, } Committee.
S. C. WILBY, }

On Poultry.

C. K. Farington, Fryeburg, best plowing, \$2.00; Merrill Wyman, Fryeburg, 2d do., \$2.00; William Stickney, Brownfield, 2d do., \$1.00.

THOMAS MABRY, Chairman.

On Cloth.

James Walker, Jr., Fryeburg, best full cloth, \$2.00; L. P. Sawyer, Denmark, 2d do., \$1.00.

E. I. Fessenden, Fryeburg, best undressed flannel, \$1.00.

Moses Howard, Brownfield, best satin, 50cts.

D. G. TARDON, Chairman.

On Domestic and Fancy Articles.

Miss Judith Walker, Fryeburg, best quilt, \$1.00.

Mrs. H. D. E. Hutchins, Fryeburg, reg. 50cts; Mrs. Samuel Swan, do., do., 50cts; Mrs. Wm. A. Stevens, do., do., 50cts.

Mrs. Anna Boddy, Fryeburg, tidy, 50cts.

Mrs. James Walker, Lovell, ottoman cover, 50cts; Miss Mary F. Barrows, do., do., 50cts; Miss Jane Warren, do., do., 50cts.

Miss Hannah M. Cook, Fryeburg, monochrome and pencil drawings, \$1.00.

Miss E. A. Robertson, Brownfield, oil paintings and drawings, 50cts.

Miss Sarah W. Stickney, Brownfield, needle work, 50cts.

Miss Jane Weeks, Brownfield, table cover, 50cts.

Miss B. D. Hill, Lovell, worsted flowers, 50cts.

Miss Helen M. Gibson, Brownfield, lamp shade, 50cts.

Mrs. A. H. Ludin, Lovell, moss baskets, 25cts.

Miss Anna Walker, Fryeburg, sewing silk bag, 25cts.

Miss Mary F. Bradley, Fryeburg, wrought slippers, 25cts.

Miss Mary A. Gilman, Fryeburg, shell box, 25cts.

Miss Abigail Richardson, Fryeburg, wire basket, 25cts.

Miss Harriet A. Woodbury, Sweden, bed spread, 25cts.

Miss Jane R. Cutter, Lovell, embroidered skirt, 25cts.

James Lord, Fryeburg, table swift, 25cts.

We were under the necessity of passing by many very deserving articles, as the limited amount placed at our disposal prevented any further appropriations. We would particularly mention the variety of contributions from Mrs. R. Gibson, Fryeburg, as novel and beautiful. Miss E. A. Robertson, Brownfield, exhibited an extensive and well arranged herbarium. Mrs. A. Seavey, Brownfield, exhibited a beautiful model of a pair of suspenders, embroidered by Mrs. A. Boddy, Fryeburg, displayed much taste in design and execution.

We would respectfully suggest to all future contributors, that we think the objects of the Society would be better promoted by endeavoring to show decided utility as well as taste, in all the productions of home industry, rather than the mere display of a great amount of labor.

In behalf of the Committee,

A. K. BARROWS.

PRESERVING FRUIT IN A FRESH STATE.

WM. R. and ELIZA SMITH, of Macedon, N. Y., have devoted nearly their whole time during the fall season, the present and past year, in perfecting their process for preserving soft and perishable fruits in glass jars, in a fresh state, like that when first taken from the tree. Their mode consists substantially in expelling the air from the jars by heat, and then hermetically sealing them; but there are so many minute particulars to be attended to, that one who should remain a whole day in their laboratory, and closely observe every part of the process, would not probably succeed as they do, after a month's trial. In truth, one might as well think to draw a fine picture, without experience, by watching for a few hours the brush of an eminent artist. They preserve strawberries, cherries, raspberries, peaches, plums, pears, tomatoes, &c.; and so different are the details of the process for each of these, that the necessary requirements for one sort, would, if applied to others, entirely spoil them. Of their fruits prepared last year, when they had had much less experience, some proved inferior by losing a part of the peculiar fresh flavor of newly plucked fruit, while other specimens which were examined, and more especially the *chrysanthemum* peaches, could hardly be distinguished from those of yesterday's ripening. They are particularly successful with tomatoes, the flavor of which, after months of keeping, we much prefer to that of the specimens which are usually brought early in summer from the Island of Bermuda. They have now on hand a large collection of jars or bottles for distribution, and we hope they may reap some reward for the extraordinary labor, skill, and ingenuity which they have bestowed in perfecting their process. [Albany Cultivator.]

FOOTPRINTS OF WINTER.

BY MRS. E. E. NICHOLS.

Days are into darkness sliding,
Clouds o'er the earth are sinking,
And the icy letters, linking,
Bind the shallow streamers.

Spring's sweet hours of sunshine solely,
Summer twilight soft and hazy,
In these days of melancholy
Seem like distant dreams.

Look we for no fair to-morrow—
Spade and plow have left the furrow—
And the rabbit from its burrow
Steals with unobtrusive tread.

Hushed the brook's melodious prattling,
But the winds and leaves are battling,
And the sleeter hounds are ranting
O'er the collected dead!

Yonder, where the rocks are cutting,
Though the air is keen and cutting,
Little squirrels go scampering—
In the hazel hedges!

Underneath a river's toiling—
Rage within its bosom boiling;
You may see it, boiling, coiling,
Like a wounded snake!

All the forest's din recesses,
Where the sunbeams seldom blesses,
Shorn of leaf and twig recesses,
Have no secrets now;

Quietly the ivy's creeping
Where the lighted flowers are sleeping,
And the blast from Northward sweeping,
Drives the clouds now.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PLANT TREES.

What has been done, may be done again, and we therefore make prize of the following extract from a private letter, for the encouragement of those who think it now too late to begin to plant fruit trees—that they may never be to eat the fruit. Well, suppose you do not live; if you have been worth your salt and the space you occupied in the world, you have children who bid fair to pluck many a bushel of fair fruit from the tree you may plant, ten or twenty years hence. But the success of our friend—we would tell you, in confidence, that our correspondent is George Jacques, of Worcester, if I were not that he would be vexed at the breach of trust—his success assures the horticulturist, even that he may safely plant and hope to eat. Says our good friend:

"In the spring of 1850, there was not a fruit tree of any description upon the place which my brother and myself now occupy. This year—only twenty months from the planting of the first tree—we have about three and a half bushels of the finest pears. Of these we have had twenty-seven varieties, and were able to exhibit twenty-three of the varieties at the late annual exhibition of the Worcester Horticultural Society. Not one of the trees upon which this splendid fruit grew, is over ten feet high, and above half them are grafted upon seedling pear stocks. Some of the most prolific, however, are upon quince-bushes. Next year we expect to be able to send a considerable quantity of pears to the market from our little orchard. We have also a great supply of quinces, and over a bushel of fine winter apples. In regard to other fruits, we had an abundance of strawberries and currants also. Hereafter, in favorable seasons, we shall probably have a plenty of all our hardy fruits from our own grounds. Besides this, we transplanted in the month of January, 1851, four shag-bark trees of thirty-five to forty feet high by measurement. These trees were selected the autumn before, from the good quality of the nuts found upon them; they were moved by the frozen-belt method, a distance of about two miles. The whole cost of the operation when completed, was not above thirty-two dollars,—or about the price which Mr. Snooks, the dandy, pays for a fashionable dress-coat to wear to a ball. They are all four of them, alive and in a promising condition. Two of them bore fruit this year,—and I wish it were convenient for me to send you a dozen of as fine nuts, from one of them, as you ever saw. As they have now lived through the second summer since their planting out, all apprehension of their dying may, of course, be laid aside.

All this from land twenty-nine years ago as destitute of fruit-trees, shrubs or plants, as any part of the desert of Sahara.

Nor is it quite all. We have set during this time over a hundred ornamental trees—chiefly various kinds of evergreens—a very large proportion of which have grown admirably, and now stand, some fifteen, some twenty, and many of them over twenty feet in height, screening, sheltering, and beautifying our place in such a manner as to compensate a hundred fold for the cost of setting them. Do not by any means understand that this is written to you *boastfully*. It is intended only as a word of encouragement to those who set about building and improving with a faint heart. Indeed, men of more energy and industry than we possess, might accomplish more than this in even a briefer period of time. Nor is the pleasure, derived from the production of such results, less enviable than the lazy enjoyment of actual possession, &c."

This is no fancy sketch drawn by some dreamy poet, but a woody reality, and, in every sense, a fruitful truth. Who will now fear to plant a tree, lest he live not to eat of its fruit? As well might we dread to order a garment lest we should be embarrassed ere we can wear it.

[Journal of Agriculture.]

WINTERING STRAWBERRY BEDS—RAISING SEEDLINGS.

At a meeting of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, (and we know that they of Cincinnati are not insignificant on this subject,) Nicholas Longworth recommended straw or cut straw, or dead leaves, applied in the fall, as the best thing to do for them. Dr. Mosher used chaff, and found it well adapted to apply to the beds after dressing them in spring. Tan-bark was objected to on account of the dirt after rains.

Raising Seedlings.—Longworth would impregnate a large and good pistillate, with the best hermaphrodite, (or perfect flowered) and plant the seeds as soon as ripe in good soil in open ground. From 200 seedlings, he would expect 95 staminate, 95 pistillate, and 10 hermaphrodites. They should be planted separate, and the runners cleared till the sorts were proved. Graham advised planting in pots, and driving them ahead with bottom heat—his plants proved mostly staminate. McAvoy would plant in open ground—but select the best plants and force them. He had one bear a year from planting. [Albany Cultivator.]

HOW THE RUSSIANS TREAT THEIR HORSES.

The Russian coachman seldom uses his whip, and generally only knocks with it upon the forehead of the sledge, by way of gentle admonition to his steed; with whom, meanwhile, he keeps up a running colloquy, seldom giving harder words than "My brother—my friend—my little white pigeon—my sweetheart." "Come my pretty pigeon, make use of your legs," he will say. "What now! art blind? Come, be brisk! Take care of that stone there. Dost see it? There, that's right! Bravo! hop, hop, hop! Steady, boy, steady! What art turning thy head for! Look out boldly before thee! Hurra! Yuhk!

I could not help contrasting this with the offensive language we constantly hear in England from carter and boys employed in driving horses. You are continually shocked by the oaths used. They seem to think the horses will not go unless they swear at them, and boys consider it manly to imitate this example, and learn to swear too, and break God's commandments, by taking his holy name in vain. And this while making use of a fine, noble animal he has given for our service, but not for abuse. There is much unnecessary cruelty in the treatment of these dumb creatures, for they are often beaten when doing their best, or from not understanding what their master wants them to do.

The man who is driving a cart will often stop on a cold winter's

